Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the first paragraph on page 1 with the following amended paragraph:

A1

Screw compressors are widely used in refrigeration and other environments, and involve screw rotors rotated within a housing or casing to compress refrigerant to obtain the desired objectives. Excessive clearance between screw rotors and the housing results in loss of efficiency, while insufficient clearance results in rubbing and potential failures due to scoring or excessive wear of compressor components.

Please replace the second paragraph on page 8 with the following amended paragraph:

A2

Figure 7 shows additional thermal mass 42 as a thickening of the wall of housing 36 at the desired location. It should of course be appreciated that although this is a preferred location for an additional thermal mass, this mass could be provided in alternative manners, for example as a ring mounted around the outside of the housing rather than an integral portion of the housing, and thermal mass 42 could be positioned on different components such as rotor 38 and at different locations to address thermal distortion problems at other locations as well.

Please replace the third paragraph on page 8 with the following amended paragraph:

A3

It should readily be appreciated that each of the aspects of the present invention as described above individually and in combination serves to reduce and/or evenly distribute distortion caused by operation of a screw compressor, all of which serves to facilitate design of a screw compressor which has substantially reduced clearance between components in the expected operating envelope as compared to the rest condition or the operating condition of conventional compressors. This represents a substantial improvement over conventional screw compressors, and allows for screw compressors to be provided which operate with greater efficiency and have enhanced operational life due to avoidance of excessive wear at points of insufficient clearance.